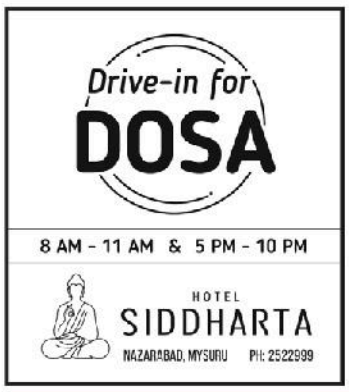

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MYSURU Saturday 29th June 2024
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MUDA's illegal land dealings UNMASKED

Fake documents for 50:50 ratio; e-auction manipulation; CA site misuse

Mysuru, June 29 (SBD&BCT)- The deeper we delve into the corruption within the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), more shocking the revelations become. It is a glaring example of how corruption can undermine foundations of urban development and public trust.

Whispers from within MUDA Office corridors suggest that high-value properties can be acquired for half their price through intermediaries. This rampant corruption is a blow to Mysuru's integrity, revealing the dark underbelly of an organisation that should stand for urban development and public welfare.

MUDA has developed and allocated plots in Mysuru's most prestigious neighbourhoods over the past four or five decades. **However, vacant plots in these layouts are now being sanctioned illegally, causing a loss of crores of rupees to MUDA and State Exchequer.**

There are serious allegations that these plots are being sold at incredibly low prices to influential individuals and those with contacts among powerful MUDA Officers.

(See MUDA on page 5)

To Our Readers

Turn to Page-6 for Vikram Muthanna's column *'In Black & White'* titled ***"MUDA: A Tale of Dysfunction and Failure."*** **—Ed**

SIT to probe MUDA scam

Mysuru, June 29 (RK&BCT)- Following revelations of a massive scam in MUDA, the State Government is gearing up for an investigation by a Special Investigation Team (SIT).

Sources disclosed to *Star of Mysore* this morning that discussions are underway at the Secretary level to form an SIT aimed at uncovering decades-long malpractices within MUDA, formerly CITB.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, currently in New Delhi for discussions with the party high command on various issues, is expected to return to Bengaluru soon. Upon his return, a decision will be finalised and a notification will be issued announcing the formation of the SIT and appointment of Investigation Officers.

STAR OF MYSORE

"We believe comment is free, but facts are sacred."

Editor: M. GOVINDE GOWDA, M.A.

Mysuru, Saturday 29th June 2024

MYGREEN-24 expo by BAI in city on Sunday

Mysuru, June 29 (KS) - Builders' Association of India (BAI), Mysore Centre, in association with Mysore Builders' Charitable Trust (MBCT), as part of World Environment Month celebration, has organised the 8th edition of MYGREEN-24 exhibition at Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry in city tomorrow (June 30).

The exhibition will be inaugurated at 9.30 am on Sunday by Ramesh Kikkeri, Consultant, Sustainable Living.

The expo, with the main objective to create awareness on nature-friendly concepts, showcases eco-friendly construction materials, sustainable and renewable energy products, technologies, organic products, environment-friendly lifestyle and practice, all under one roof.

Entry to the public is free and the exhibition will be open from 10 am to 9 pm. For details, contact K.R. Prabhakara Rao on Mob: 93421-83065 or S. Shashiraj on Mob: 98451-22179, according to a press release.

EDITOR'S BOTTOMLINE

ANCIENT VOTES TO MODERN ELECTIONS: ***In 2024, at least 40 national elections will be held around the world, engaging two billion voters. Recently, India concluded its democratic festival and the new government has been sworn in.***

This moment takes me back to my childhood, recalling not only India's first general election in 1952 but also earlier elections for Trichy Municipality. In those days, there were no symbols; instead, voters used different coloured boxes with one or more stripes of another colour. In school, we learned about the *Kudavolai* ***system from the Chola era (9th - 13th century), where candidates' names were written on palm leaves and placed in a pot. A child would draw names to select the members. This ancient democratic practice is inscribed in the Uttaramerur temple from the eighth century, detailing the constitution of the local council, candidate eligibility and the selection method.***

In ancient Greece, around 508 BC, a system of negative voting was used. Male landowners voted annually to exile the political leader they most wanted to banish for ten years. Voters used broken pieces of pottery, called *ostraka,* ***leading to the term "ostracise." If a candidate received more than 6,000 votes, the one with the most votes was exiled. If no one received 6,000 votes, all remained. Given the limited voter base, it was possible for no one to be exiled in a fairly even vote distribution. Today, how many politicians could withstand 6,000 negative votes?***

In 139 BC, the Romans introduced secret voting. In the United States, voting rights evolved from being restricted to 'white men aged 21 or more' in 1776 to including black men in 1870 and women in 1920, and now to all citizens aged 18 and above. The first voting machine, featuring a pulley, was introduced in New York in 1892, and mechanical voting machines became widespread by World War II. In India, Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) were first used in Kerala's Parur Assembly polls in 1982. They saw limited use in 1999 in a few Constituencies, and since 2004, EVMs have been used nationwide.

To provide immediate feedback to voters, the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) was first used in the Noksen Assembly Constituency of Nagaland in September 2013. Since 2019, it has been implemented in all 543 Lok Sabha Constituencies, with a 2 percent audit check. However, EVMs have been contentious, with some advocating for a return to paper ballots. It will be interesting to see how elections evolve in the technological era.

—Brig. A.N. Suryanarayanan (Rtd.) in Deccan Herald

NEWS SPARKLERS

Massive sinkhole swallows soccer fields

Illinois: A massive sinkhole opened up beneath the soccer fields at an Illinois park, swallowing large chunks of several fields and a large light pole.

Security video recorded by Alton Parks & Recreation shows the moment the sinkhole opened up in the middle of the soccer complex at Gordon F. Moore Community Park at about 8.30 am on Wednesday.

The hole was caused by a collapse in the mines located about 150 feet below fields three and four, officials said. New Frontier Materials, the company that operates the mines, said engineers were sent to the park later Wednesday to assess the damage.

Michael Haynes, director of Alton Parks & Recreation said that there were no injuries resulting from the sinkhole, which measures about 100 feet wide and 30 feet deep.

Lost dog turns up 1,000 miles from home

Mardela Springs: A Maryland man's lost dog turned up two years later after somehow ending up 1,000 miles from home.

Tony Duncan said his dog, Luna, vanished from his Mardela Springs home after chasing some wild animals into the nearby woods and failing to return.

Duncan said he never gave up hope he would see Luna again, but he was still shocked to receive a phone call last week from LaBelle Animal Control in Florida.

Animal control told Duncan a dog had been found wandering in the parking lot of a LaBelle Walmart store and was scanned for a microchip, which identified her as the missing Luna. Duncan got into his car that same day and started the 1,000-mile drive to be reunited with Luna.

HEALTH CAPSULE

Myth: PCOS can be cured

Reality: Polycystic ovarian syndrome can be controlled by diet and exercise and medications.

By Dr. Shaheen Akhtar - Consultant – Obstetrics & Gynaecology - Manipal Hospital, Mysore

manipalhospitals LIFE'S ON

*** Health Capsule is not intended to be of a diagnostic nature***

No power supply tomorrow

Mysuru, June 29- As Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL) has taken up its 1st quarterly maintenance works at Doddakere Maidan Power Distribution Centre, there will be no power supply tomorrow (June 30) between 10 am and 5.30 pm in the following areas:

Ramanuja Road 1st to 9th Cross, Hosabandikeri, JSS Hospital, Agrahara, Basaveshwara Road, Chamundipuram, Tyagaraja Road, Chamundi foothill, Gunduraonagar, Dattanagar, Muneshwaranagar, Gowrishankarnagar, Nanjangud Tollgate, Tavarekere, Jockey Quarters, behind Race Course, Suburban Bus Stand, Nazarabad, Ittigegud, Zoo surroundings, Govt. Guest House, Taluk Office, D. Devaraj Urs Road, B.N. Road, Siddarthanagar, Kurubarahalli, JC Nagar, KC Nagar, around JSS Ayurvedic Centre, areas around Palace, Sri Harsha Road, Sayyaji Rao Road, areas around Irwin Road, Dhanvanthri Road and areas around Shivarampet, according to CESC Executive Engineer of N.R. Mohalla Division.

WATER LEVEL

KRS DAM	KABINI DAM	HARANGI DAM
Maximum **124.80 feet**	Maximum **2,284.00 feet**	Maximum **2,859.00 feet**
Today's level **92.80 feet**	Today's level **2,275.06 feet**	Today's level **2,836.40 feet**
Last year's level **77.96 feet**	Last year's level **2,250.98 feet**	Last year's level **2,820.21 feet**
Yesterday's level **90.30 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,272.51 feet**	Yesterday's level **2,835.28 feet**
Today's Inflow **18,644 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **17,873 cusecs**	Today's Inflow **1,577 cusecs**
Today's Outflow **496 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **2,000 cusecs**	Today's Outflow **200 cusecs**

REALLY...?

- ***The Antarctic blue whale is the biggest of all blue whales. It is also the largest animal on the planet, weighing up to 180 tons (approximately 36 elephants) and reaching up to 30 metres in length. They can consume about 4 tonnes of krill a day!***
- ***Blue whale calves are the biggest babies on Earth, easily and at birth already rank among the largest full-grown animals.***
- ***All toothed whales have a 'Melon' in their foreheads.***
- ***Gray whales can travel over 14,000 miles round trip.***

LAUGHTER THE BEST MEDICINE

An absent-minded Professor on a train was unable to find his ticket. The Ticket Examiner recognised him and said "I am sure you purchased a ticket, but do not worry."
"You are very kind, Sir," said the Professor... "but I must find it. Otherwise, how will I know where to get down?!"

TODAY'S CURRENCY RATE

1 US Dollar	= **Rs. 83.36**
1 UK Pound	= **Rs. 105.42**
1 UAE Dirham	= **Rs. 22.70**
1 Euro	= **Rs. 89.31**

VOICE OF THE READER

Violations by builders: Onus is on MCC, MUDA and buyers too

Sir,

This is in response to the news item titled ***'Violations by builders: City apartment dwellers face double property tax"*** in *SOM* dated June 27. These violations are nothing new.

RERA (Real Estate Regulatory Authority) was instituted by the Government of India as a guideline and the Karnataka Government passed the Karnataka Real Estate Regulation and Development Rules, 2017, which was notified on 10th July 2017.

Previous governments have on several occasions informed the public to check the credentials and the project with the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) and Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA). If the buying public does not do that, then it is not the Government's duty to solve the problem.

However, the MCC and KRERA must ensure that rules are not being broken by the builder. A regular audit of projects under development has to be done by all three departments independently.

As it is the MCC or MUDA who approves the plans and provides the completion report (CR) certificate and Khata, it is incumbent on them to ensure that builders build according to the approved plan and no deviation takes place. This pertains to apartment buildings.

A similar audit should be made throughout the city. All buildings under construction, renovation, additions or modifications must display a notice board with permit number and statement of construction type (demolition, construction of new, additions, renovations, modifications) and completion date. This should apply to all construction works.

Any digging up of the road or covered drain to make connections to drains, sewage or potable/ non-potable water should be restored by the person who digs up the road or drain. We, the people, must be held accountable if that is what it takes to bring discipline or order to our society.

— George Rego

Mysuru 28.6.2024

G.S. Sangreshi is new State Election Commissioner

Sangreshi

Bengaluru, June 29 (DM)- Just a day after it issued an order (on Thursday) appointing G.S. Sangreshi (Gadigeppa Sannabasappa Sangreshi) as the new Chairman of Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, the State Government on Friday withdrew the order and issued a fresh order appointing him as the State Election Commissioner.

Sangreshi was serving as the Principal Secretary of Law, Justice and Human Rights Department at Bengaluru, when he was appointed as the Chairman of Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes on Thursday. But a day later, he has been appointed as the State Election Commissioner. His tenure will be for five years.

Sangreshi had served as the Principal District and Sessions Court Judge at Mysuru last year (2023) and later moved to Bengaluru to take up a new post. Earlier too Sangreshi had served in Mysuru as Principal Civil Judge, Mysuru district in 2008 and subsequently served at Tumakuru, Gadag, Madikeri and Bengaluru districts in later years.

Hootagalli CMC invites applications to avail benefits

Mysuru, June 29- Under the SFC Mukta Nidhi's 24.10 percent, 7.25 percent and 5 percent scheme for the development of SC/ST, Backward Communities (BCs), poor and differently abled persons, the Hootagalli CMC (City Municipal Council) has invited applications from eligible persons for availing benefits under the scheme. Eligible persons can apply at CMC Office before Aug.2.

Under 24.10 percent scheme, eligible persons from SC/ST will get financial aid for construction of pucca houses, financial support for repair of houses damaged by natural calamities and financial support for SC/ST students who want to pursue higher education and to buy laptops.

Under 7.25 percent plan, persons from BCs will get financial aid for construction of pucca houses, repair of houses damaged by natural calamities and financial aid to BC students for higher education and laptops.

Under 5 percent scheme, differently abled persons will get financial support for artificial limbs, getting other prosthetic equipment and surgery.

Increased inflow prompts greasing of KRS Dam crest gates

Sophisticated Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition technology to monitor inflow, outflow

Srirangapatna, June 29 (VK & BCT)- With rains lashing Kodagu district and other catchment areas, the inflow to KRS Dam at Srirangapatna Taluk of Mandya District has been increasing by the day in past few days.

This morning, the Dam recorded an inflow of 18,644 cusecs. The water level at the Dam today stood at 92.80 ft. as against the maximum level of 124.80 ft. The maximum capacity of the Dam is 49.452 tmcft and today's capacity was at 17.676 tmcft while the live capacity has been recorded at 9.297 tmcft.

Following increased inflow, engineers from Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Limited (CNNL) are currently performing maintenance work on the sluice gates that have been newly installed, including greasing and aligning various gate levels. This critical work is overseen by CNNL Deputy Executive Engineer Abhilash and Engineer Shivakumar.

For the first time, 136 crest gates have been replaced at the Dam. In all, there are 153 sluice gates at various levels through which water is released and in 2003, 17 sluice gates at 80 feet level were replaced as they were either corroded or damaged.

Now, the project is complete and 136 gates have been replaced, involving the removal of gates using motors and the controlled release of water. The project was initiated with the financial support of the Centre and the World Bank under the Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP) and the World Bank has released a financial aid of Rs. 69.52 crore.

The reservoir, constructed across River Cauvery, was conceived and executed by Nalwadi Krishnaraja Wadiyar and Sir M. Visvesvaraya in November 1911 and completed in 1931-32. The Dam is 2.62 kilometres long.

Each year, gates' conditions are assessed and any faults are promptly repaired. Maintenance tasks such as greasing and aligning the pulleys, gates, and machinery are conducted to ensure proper functioning. This year, maintenance for the gates at 80 ft level and V.C. Canal gates is expected to be completed within two to three days.

SCADA technology functional

Notably, all the gates are managed by sophisticated Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) technology, which monitors both the inflow and outflow of water.

The SCADA system allows officers to monitor and operate the dam's gates remotely from their offices by simply pressing buttons. Currently, the gates are operated manually using cables and pulleys, a less accurate and time-consuming process.

The new automation system enables officers and Dam managers to control the gates remotely with SCADA software, minimising errors, saving time, and reducing costs while improving the quality of monitoring and control mechanisms.

SCADA is a superior tool for managing Dam operations, offering high performance, multiple functions and efficient programming tools. It features user-friendly programming software with faster execution speeds. SCADA ensures real-time data recording, aiding in analysis of water levels, inflow, and outflow from each gate. This technology is more user-friendly, reliable, and robust, making monitoring and control simpler and more efficient.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Avail facilities at Srirampura TP

Srirampura Town Panchayat (TP) has invited applications from eligible persons for availing individual benefits under 24.10, 7.25 and 5 percent schemes meant for SC/ST, Backward Communities, the poor and the differently abled. The selected beneficiaries will be given financial aid for house construction under 24.10 percent plan, financial support to beneficiaries of 7.25 percent plan and insurance coverage, financial aid for construction of toilet, personal loan etc., for the differently abled under 5 percent plan. The interested persons residing in the limits of Srirampura TP can submit the filled-in application forms in prescribed format at the TP Office before July 9.

Admission to student hostel

Veerashaiva Anathalaya Trust, Mysuru, has invited applications from meritorious economically weaker rural students pursuing their first year degree and those who have scored more than 50 percent marks for admission to students hostel for the academic year 2024-25. The applications will be available at Trust Office on Ramanuja Road till July 10. Admission will be given to students with high marks on priority. Last date for submitting the filled-in application is July 10. Interview for the admission will be held on July 14 at 10 am. Parents must compulsorily accompany the students for the interview. For details, contact Mob: 99166-50106.

Free eye camp

A mega eye screening camp has been organised at the Government Hospital premises in Ashokapuram 6th Cross in city on June 30 at 9 am, under the joint aegis of the District Blindness Control Society, Mysuru and Vinayaka Kreeda haagu Samaja Seva Samsthe, Ashokapuram, Government Hospital, Ashokapuram, Jayanagar and Aravinda Eye Hospital, Coimbatore. Interested may register their names along with mobile phone number. For details, contact Mob: 99000-95293 or 98867-67508.

Ph.D awardee

B. Kavitha has been awarded Ph.D (Vidyavaridhi) in Sanskrit by the Karnataka Samskrit University, Bengaluru, for her thesis 'Vidwan Dr. H.V. Nagarajara Rao Mahabhaga-Virachitanam Ashtanam Shatakrtinam Samagravalokanam Adhyayanamcha' submitted under the guidance of Prof. V. Girishchandra.

Billboards on Varuna Canal Aqueduct spark outrage

Huge publicity hoardings threaten safety of crucial waterway; Public demand removal, accountability

Mysuru, June 29 (MK&BCT)- Holes drilled and massive advertisement hoardings fixed on cement pillars of the Varuna Canal Aqueduct near Siddalingapura have sparked public outrage.

The aqueduct, crucial for supplying water to agricultural lands in Mysuru and Mandya districts, faces significant damage to its cement pillars due to drilling on the overhead structure along the Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway.

The aqueduct's structural integrity relies on wide air passages beneath the waterway, supported by columns and pillars. However, the placement of large advertisement hoardings obstructs these air routes, posing a threat to its structural stability.

The Varuna Canal, essential for irrigation across Mysuru, T. Narasipur, H.D. Kote, Nanjangud and Srirangapatna taluks of Mandya district, faces a serious challenge at a spot on the Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway adjacent to the Atrium Hotel.

Large hoardings have been mounted over the Canal pillars, posing a threat to farmers' interests and public safety. Pillars have been drilled and hoardings installed, prompting widespread concern over potential large-scale damage.

The aqueduct project was initiated in 1979 during the tenure of late D. Devaraj Urs as the Chief Minister and supported with funding approval in 1998 during Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's tenure as Finance Minister.

Upon its opening, the Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway was heavily adorned with massive advertisement billboards from various marketing organisations, hotels, jewellery shops and real estate dealers, dazzling drivers and even encroaching on Government property. These billboards, dominating both sides of the road, cluttered existing poles and were permitted by authorities on the elevated road. They were placed on large iron sheets.

While hoardings placed by the side of the road did not cause harm, the billboards fixed on the Varuna Canal aqueduct have disfigured the pillars where the concrete has been balanced.

Officials granting permission for these hoardings and the private entrepreneurs responsible are disrupting farmers' lives and endangering drivers. Concerned citizens fear weakened Canal pillars could collapse, obstructing operations.

Hoarding violations heighten anxieties, with unchecked water seepage compounding distress. Despite years of using polymer technology by the Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited (CNNL) to mitigate seepage, reports indicate widespread seepage, further threatening water supplies.

Public officials and lawmakers ignoring these issues risk being perceived as unaccountable, fuelling public outrage. Water theft from the Varuna Canal is rampant, with multiple charges. The unauthorised diversion of river water by tankers continues unchecked.

An inappropriate move: Citizens

According to concerned citizens, the aqueduct is Government-owned and the installation of hoardings by private companies is deemed inappropriate and has to be removed immediately. The installation of hoardings drilled into aqueduct pillars poses an extreme danger, as it involves regulating such structures on public and even Government property without official permission.

Citizens fear potential collapses if the pillars weaken. When queried about the hoardings, an engineer from the Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Limited (CNNL) declined to answer or provide clarification.

Man brutally murdered in Nanjangud

Nanjangud, June 29 (VNS)- In a ghastly incident, a 47-year-old man was brutally murdered by smashing his head with a boulder near Hadinaarukalu Mantapa close to Srikanteshwara Swamy Temple in the town, yesterday.

Bangaru

The deceased has been identified as Bangaru, a vegetable merchant who used to supply to Tamil Nadu and a resident of Haradanahalli village in Chamarajanagar. The Police said that the deceased had visited Nanjangud to attend to a wedding during which the group of unidentified people waylaid him near the mantap and murdered him by smashing his head with a boulder before fleeing the spot.

The Police also added that they are yet to identify the miscreants and the motive behind the incident. On receiving the information, ASP Nagesh, Dy.SP Raghu, Town Police Station Inspector Basavaraju and other officials arrived at the spot and conducted the mahazar. Dog Squad and Fingerprint Experts were also pressed into action.

The body was later shifted to Govt. Hospital for post-mortem. Nanjangud Town Police have registered a case and are investigating.

9 child labourers rescued

Mysuru, June 29- In the month-long Pan India Child Labour Rescue and Rehabilitation Campaign organised by the District Administration as part of World Day Against Child Labour observed from June 1 to 30, the authorities, who raided shops and other commercial establishments across the city on June 24 and 25, have rescued nine child labourers found working there.

The rescued child labourers were produced before the Children Welfare Committee (Makkala Kalyana Samiti), following which they have been sheltered at Balamandira. Officials from the Labour, Women & Child Development, Social Welfare and Police Departments, Child Protection Unit, Special Child Protection Police Cell and staff of NGOs were present.

K. Lakshman, Founder-President of Lions Club of Narasimharaja, passes away

Mysuru, June 29- K. Lakshman (60), Founder-President of the city's Lions Club of Narasimharaja and a resident of Kaverinagar, passed away at a private hospital here on Friday night.

K. Lakshman

He leaves behind his wife, daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Lakshman also served as the Dharmadarshi of Chamundeshwari Temple in Kaverinagar.

His last rites were performed at Gokulam burial grounds this afternoon, according to family sources.

MUDA 50:50 site scam bigger than Valmiki ST Corpn. scam: BJP leader Raghu Kautilya

State BJP OBC Morcha President R. Raghu Kautilya seen addressing mediapersons at Patrakarthara Bhavan in city this morning as former Corporator Prashanth Gowda (left) and City Advocate S. Arunkumar look on.

- **Warns of filing PIL at HC, if the State Government fails to order probe by either SIT, CBI or IAS Officer before the forthcoming Assembly session**
- **Demands sacking of Urban Development Minister Byrati Suresh from Cabinet**
- **Government turning a blind eye to irregularities in CM's home district**

Mysuru, June 29 (BLU&BS)-R. Raghu (Kautilya), President of State BJP OBC Morcha, has alleged that the large scale irregularities to the tune of Rs.2,500 crore has occurred in relation to allotment of about 5,000 sites under 50:50 ratio at Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), which is bigger than the recently unearthed scam at Karnataka Mahrashi Valmiki Scheduled Tribes (ST) Development Corporation Limited.

Addressing media persons at Patrakarthara Bhavana here this morning, Raghu warned of filing a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in the High Court, if the State Government fails to hand over the probe into MUDA irregularities, either to a Special Investigation Team (SIT), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) or Senior IAS Officer, at least during the forthcoming Assembly Session.

"There were gross violation of norms in the process of auctioning of sites too, all happening under the nose of Urban Development Minister Byrati Suresh, who should be sacked from the Cabinet, by holding him accountable for the same. Ironically, the irregularities have occurred in the Chief Minister's home district, but still the Government has turned a blind eye," Raghu alleged further.

Ironically, MUDA has not allotted sites for the applicants in the last 30 years, but has been working for the cause of middlemen, with a well organised network at play in the Authority, in cahoots with Officers and influential persons.

It would be better to shut down MUDA and hand over all its remaining assets to Deputy Commissioner. A legal cell headed by retired Judge should be opened to facilitate the process of site allotment in MUDA and a Special Vigilance Cell on the lines of BBMP and BDA headed by Superintendent of Police (SP) cadre officer, to ensure transparency in its functioning, he urged.

Raghu, who claimed to be collecting documents related to the irregularities, also demanded for confiscating the alternative sites allotted so far in 50:50 ratio by MUDA.

Several irregularities at MUDA have come to light in the past too and cases have been booked by Lakshmipuram Police, but no cases have been taken to their logical end, by punishing the guilty. Lokayukta and Urban Development Department too have received several complaints, but no serious action has been taken by ordering probe into them, said Raghu.

Advocate S. Arun Kumar and former Corporator Prashanth Gowda were also present.

MUDA's illegal land dealings unmasked

(Continued from page 1)

These officers, in turn, protect these illegal activities, sell the plots to the wealthy through fake documents and pocket enormous amounts of money without facing any repercussions.

50:50 deal: A facade for corruption

One of the most shocking revelations is the corruption embedded in the 50:50 plot allocation scheme. Plots are allocated in a 50:50 ratio in cases where the land acquisition process remains incomplete and compensation is not provided to the land-owners.

After developing layouts and allocating plots, a note is written on the files many years later, stating that there is no information about compensation amount given to original land-owner. This leads to the approval of alternative plots, creating a fertile ground for malpractice.

This alternative plot scam is already in the public domain. Additionally, reliable sources have reported another scandal where MUDA officials play a 'fake game' under the pretext of the 50:50 ratio, committing massive fraud.

'Fake game' explained

MUDA officials create fake documents based on old land acquisition notifications, claiming that certain lands in survey numbers have been acquired. Using this claim, they obtain the MUDA Board's administrative approval to allocate alternative plots to the original owner in a 50:50 ratio. Surprisingly, this 'fake game' too is played legally, after necessary approvals from the MUDA Board.

After obtaining the Board's clearance, these plots are then sold at lower prices to influential people, particularly in prestigious neighbourhoods such as Dattagalli, Vijayanagar and Kuvempunagar. Plots with a market value of around Rs. 2 crore are set at just 30-40 percent of their price, with the remaining amount being pocketed by the officials.

This 'fake game' is conducted under the guise of legitimate procedures, making it nearly impossible to scrutinise everything thoroughly. This has turned out to be a goldmine for corrupt officials.

Manipulating e-auction

The corruption extends beyond plot allocations. Officials also manipulate the e-auction process of MUDA sites. They pre-arrange deals with influential people, locking the prices they suggest into the software. If a higher bid is entered, the process mysteriously fails to complete.

Amid thousands of participants in the e-auction, these failures are often perceived as technical glitches, allowing the malpractice to go unnoticed. However, allegations suggest that numerous influential individuals in Mysuru have amassed hundreds of plots through these fraudulent methods.

CA site misuse

The allocation of Civic Amenities (CA) sites to associations and organisations exposes further corruption within MUDA. Despite some plots being approved for 100 years during the City Improvement Trust Board (CITB) era, many remain unused even after 30 to 40 years, deviating from their intended purposes.

MUDA officials have reportedly targeted these unused plots, issuing notices to cancel them due to non-compliance with usage rules. When the holders of these CA sites visit the MUDA Office to present their perspective on the notices, officials allegedly exploit the situation to extort money from them.

Glaring examples of misconduct

Despite Kuvempunagar being established five decades ago, many plots remain under MUDA's control. Shockingly, these plots are being unlawfully sold and distributed to influential individuals.

In one egregious instance, an entire acre of land designated as a commercial plot has been allocated and distributed under suspicious circumstances.

Another glaring example of misconduct involves a large tract of land in Kuvempunagar, previously seized from a cooperative society and adorned with a 'MUDA land' signboard.

Allegedly, certain officials conspired to subdivide this land into approximately 300 plots, intending to allocate them to members of the same cooperative society from which the land was originally seized. This ambitious project sought approval for a staggering investment of Rs. 500 crore. However, sources indicate that officials encountered significant obstacles and failed in their endeavours.

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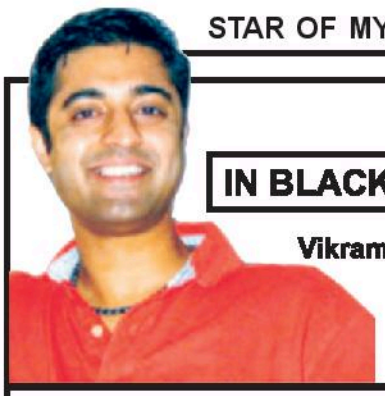
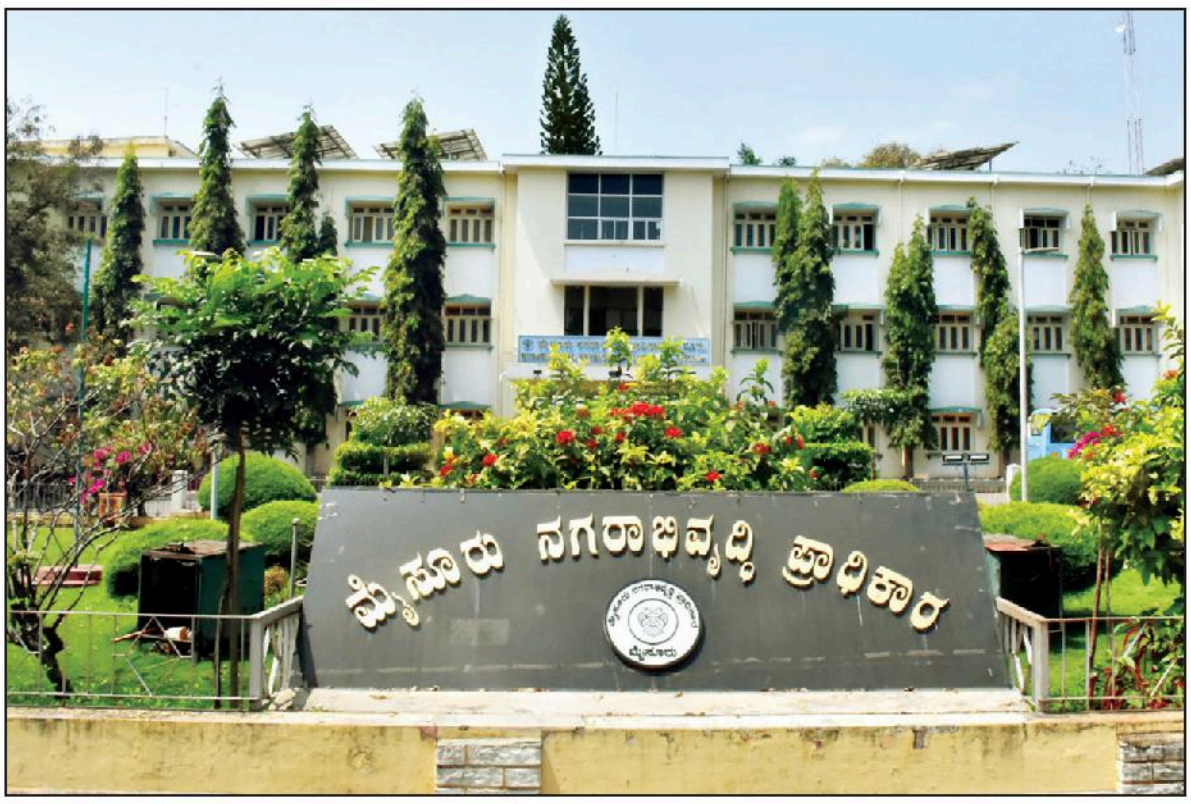


IN BLACK & WHITE

Vikram Muthanna

MUDA

A Tale of Dysfunction & Failure



The Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) is back in the news and as always, for the wrong reasons. This time, for corruption of three varieties — The 50:50 ratio site distribution scandal, the e-auction scandal and the Civic Amenities (CA) site scandal.

At the risk of being repetitive, I have to republish my recent observations of MUDA. MUDA, instead of providing sites to Mysureans, has been busy setting its sights on the way to loot.

Mismanagement and inefficiency have plagued the urban planning authority of Mysuru for way too long and it needs a rehaul. For a start, we should have fewer MUDA members and then we could have minutes of the MUDA meetings made public.

The 50:50 ratio scandal is basically where a fake document is created saying 'X' person has lost his land during layout formation and has not been compensated and then in the MUDA meeting it is presented and person X is given an alternative site in an upscale area like Vijayanagar for example.

The e-auction scandal is where officers put a lock in the software so that the person who has paid money is guaranteed the site allotment even when there are higher bidders as the software is programmed not to take higher bids.

The CA site scandal is where somebody has been allotted a CA site and has not utilised it for their intended purpose and MUDA sends a notice as per procedure. But when they come to the MUDA Office to explain themselves why they have not started the project, officers tell them that they are not interested actually in the project but they just want to collect money.

Since its inception, MUDA has failed miserably in executing 'planned' urban development. The institution is ineffective and desperately needs a comprehensive overhaul. By 2030, 600 million Indians, or 40 percent of the country's population, will reside in urban areas, including Mysuru.

With improved air connectivity, increased fast trains and the Mysuru-Bengaluru Access-Controlled Highway, the influx of people into Mysuru is inevitable.

There has already been a huge influx of people to 'settle down' in Mysuru, especially from Kerala, Chennai and even North India. Yet, MUDA is utterly unprepared to deliver planned growth for our city.

MUDA's preamble states that they exist to promote a well-planned and well-designed urban development and make available, 'environment-friendly and affordable housing using state-of-the-art technologies to all strata of society.'

The irony is palpable. Over 50 years, MUDA has allotted just over 50,000 sites. Meanwhile, private developers have distributed 70,000 sites in half that time.

Since 1994, MUDA has built only two layouts, while approving hundreds of private layouts, driving up real estate prices and making housing unaffordable for ordinary citizens, especially Mysureans.

MUDA must seriously provide affordable sites to locals who have been waiting for years else it could lead to social discord as locals will be forced to move to the outskirts of the city while out-of-state citizens will populate the main city.

Soon, linguistic animosity will begin which will spill over to the other social spaces. This will lead to the locals Vs 'outsiders' issues and could turn an otherwise peaceful Mysuru into a chaotic and toxic city like Bengaluru has become.

MUDA has become an institution that serves politicians and bureaucrats more than the people of Mysuru. There is an unspoken 'understanding' among leaders of all parties regarding MUDA — exposing corruption or inefficiency is off-limits. So, we wonder how far this new 'inquiry' will go.

Interestingly, the present Congress Government has started the inquiry when in fact three years ago, when allegations of irregularities were made against the then MUDA Chairman by the then DC, the Opposition party, which was the Congress, remained silent!

This silence was deafening, given that five of the seven MLAs on the MUDA Board were from Congress party, along with four out of the seven MLCs of Congress party on the Board.

Even more interesting, the Chairman who was accused of corruption back then is now in the Congress Party. Wah!

If Mysuru is to avoid the fate of Bengaluru, our saviour cannot be the MUDA and definitely not its present form which is lacking in imagination, vision and aesthetics. MUDA's proposals often border on the absurd.

Two years ago, it planned to build grotesque-looking 'welcome' arches at the city's entrances. In 2012, it proposed a theme park in front of Lalitha Mahal Palace with a musical fountain, IMAX theatre, laser show and battery-operated train — a grandiose vision from an institution failing in its primary function of providing sites.

MUDA had been without a Chairman for a year but now K. Marigowda has been appointed Chairman, thankfully he stopped the 50:50 scam and hopefully, he will be able to do what other Chairmen weren't, which is deliver sites to locals, Mysureans.

Currently, MUDA functions more like PUDA — Politicians' Urban Development Authority. Will it stop? The outcome of the latest inquiry will tell.

e-mail: vikram@starofmysore.com

Panel discussion on 'Core Concerns of Our Times' held in city

Rights to access and manage forest resources often overlooked: Maj. Gen. Vombatkere; Caste system is deeply ingrained in social hierarchy: Columnist Capt. G.R. Gopinath

Mysuru, June 29 (MTY&BCT)- The caste system in India is a deeply ingrained social hierarchy that has shaped Indian society for centuries. Despite legal protections and affirmative actions, caste-based discrimination continues to persist in various forms, said Columnist Captain G.R. Gopinath, also a soldier, farmer and entrepreneur whose Air Deccan gave wings to the dreams of the common man to fly.

He was speaking on the topic '*The Republic and its Discontents*' at a panel discussion on 'Core Concerns of Our Times' organised by Mysore Open Forum (MOF) at Wadiyar Centre for Architecture in city this morning.

"Social attitudes and prejudices based on caste remain deeply entrenched, affecting everyday interactions," he added.

"Over the years, there have been movements and initiatives advocating for the rights and dignity of marginalised caste communities. This system is especially prevalent in rural areas where even the food cooked by a person from the lower strata of society is not touched by the upper-class people. Of late, casteist messages are sent on social media groups, especially on WhatsApp," he added.

Overall, while there have been significant strides in addressing caste-based discrimination and inequalities, the caste system continues to influence social dynamics and identities in India, posing ongoing challenges to achieving true social justice and equality, he noted.

Maj. Gen. (retd.) S.G. Vombatkere seen addressing the gathering at Wadiyar Centre for Architecture, Krishnaraja Boulevard, Mysuru, this morning during the panel discussion on 'Core Concerns of Our Times' organised by Mysore Open Forum (MOF). Others seen are (from left) S. Raghotham, Opinion Editor, Deccan Herald, Ravi Joshi, Convenor of MOF and Capt. G.R. Gopinath.

Speaking on '*Impacts of Development on People*' Maj. Gen. (retd.) S.G. Vombatkere focussed on three concerns — inequality in society, social unrest, global warming and climate change.

The recognition and protection of the rights of scheduled tribes and other traditional forest dwellers have been a contentious issue and these communities have historically relied on forests for their livelihoods, cultural practices, and identities. However, their rights to access and manage forest resources have often been overlooked or marginalised by governmental policies and legislation, he noted.

In India, the Forest Rights Act (2006) was a significant legislative effort aimed at addressing these historical injustices. The Act sought to recognise the rights of these communities over forest land and resources, providing a legal framework for them to secure titles to their ancestral lands and manage forest resources sustainably. Despite this progressive legislation, implementation has faced numerous challenges.

One of the key issues Vombatkere highlighted is the lack of effective enforcement and the watering down of legal provisions meant to protect these rights. "Governments have been criticised for undermining the spirit of Forest Rights Act through dilution of its provisions or inconsistent enforcement. This has led to ongoing conflicts and struggles for these communities to secure and assert their rights," he said adding "Continued advocacy and efforts are necessary to ensure that these communities can assert their rights and contribute meaningfully to forest conservation and sustainable development goals."

While Ravi Joshi, retired Joint Secretary in the Government of India Cabinet Secretariat, spoke about '*Secularism as a Constitutional Promise to the Minorities*', S. Raghotham, Opinion Editor, *Deccan Herald,* spoke on the topic '*Role of Media in a Democracy.*'

Manipal Hospital Junction bottleneck needs flyover: CM

Seeks approval from Centre for construction of nine grade separators on Outer Ring Road

Bengaluru, June 29 (KMS& DM)- Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has urged Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari to prioritise the upgrade of State Highways experiencing high vehicle density.

During a meeting in New Delhi yesterday, Siddaramaiah presented a memorandum requesting approval for the construction of a flyover at the Manipal Hospital Junction (Kempegowda Circle) on the busy Mysuru-Bengaluru Highway, as well as nine grade separators on the Mysuru Outer Ring Road (ORR).

Additionally, the Chief Minister appealed to the Union Minister

CM Siddaramaiah submitting memorandum to Union Minister Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi yesterday as Deputy CM D.K. Shivakumar looks on.

to designate 39 roads in Karnataka, totalling 5,225 kilometres, as National Highways. These proposals have been pending for several years. He emphasized the need for upgrading all State Highways with a daily traffic density of 10,000 Passenger Car Units (PCUs). Further requests included facilitating the construction of a tunnel between Maranahalli and Addahole in the Shiradi Ghat of the Bengaluru-Mangaluru Highway to improve access to the Mangalore Port.

Siddaramaiah also sought support for a flyover in Belagavi city, the implementation of a cable car project at Gokak Falls in Belagavi district and the enhancement of the Kittur-Bailahongal connecting road.

Additionally, he proposed constructing bypasses in Kalaburagi and Raichur, converting the Belur-Chikkamagalur road into a four-lane highway, and developing a 106-kilometre stretch of NH-766 into a four or six-lane highway, among other infrastructural improvements.

During his visit, Siddaramaiah also pressed for urgent approval of the Mekedatu project, a multipurpose initiative involving the construction of a Balancing Reservoir across the Cauvery River at Mekedatu along the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border in Kanakapura taluk of Ramanagara district. Highlighting the project's benefits, including drinking water supply to Bengaluru city and Ramanagar district, as well as power generation capabilities totalling 67 tmcft, Siddaramaiah underscored its importance for regional development.

Earlier, the Chief Minister held discussions with Union Ministers representing Karnataka and Members of Parliament to advance approvals for state-centric projects awaiting the Union Government's sanction.

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Actor Aradhana inaugurates The Jewellery Show

The 30th edition of The Jewellery Show, an exclusive jewellery exhibition with reputed brands from across India, was inaugurated yesterday by film actor and Brand Ambassador for this edition, Aradhana** (third from right), **who is the daughter of actress Malashree, at Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel on M.G. Road in Mysuru. Show Organisers B.N. Jagadeesh and Hemalatha Jagadeesh of Golden Creeper Enterprises, Arathi Somaiah, Gayathri Javaregowda, Chaithra Rangaswamy, Asha Divyesh, Hemamalini Lakshman, Pallavi, Nirmala and others were present during the inauguration. The Show will be open today and tomorrow between 10 am and 9 pm.

Book release, Chutuku Kavigoshti and Award Presentation tomorrow

Mysuru, June 29- As part of A. Hemaganga's 63rd birthday celebrations, Hemaganga Sahitya mattu Samskrutika Pratishtana and Mysuru Sahitya mattu Samskrutika Pratishtana have jointly organised book release, Chutuku Kavigoshti and Award Presentation programme at Ideal Jawa Rotary School premises, JLB Road, tomorrow (June 30) at 10 am.

Poetess Dr. Latha Rajashekar will inaugurate and release the book 'Kanasillada Haadiyalli,' a poetry collection of Hemaganga. Teacher & poetess B. Shobha will speak about the book.

Poetess Kerodi M. Lolakshi will be the chief guest and present awards. The awardees are as follows: Dr. Latha Rajashekar (Mahakavya Saraswathi award); Vidu. S.V. Pannaga & Vidu. Sunanda Dileep (Gayana Ganga awards); B.K. Meenakshi, Sujatha Raveesh, Yashodha Ramakrishna, J. Prabha Shastry & P.S. Vailesha Kodagu (Sahitya Ganga awards); N.P. Mamatha (Sanghatana Chature award); Dr. K. Prema Kumar (Vidya Nidhi award), Keshav Koushik (Sadhana Ganga award); Sourav Gaj (Pratibha Ganga award).

Hemaganga Sahitya mattu Samskrutika Pratishtana President A. Hemaganga and Mysuru Sahitya mattu Samskrutika Pratishtana Cultural Committee President C. Vani Raghavendra will be the guests of honour. Mysuru Sahitya mattu Samskrutika Pratishtana President M.B. Santhosh will preside. Classical singer Vidu. S.V. Pannaga will render invocation. Poetess N.R. Roopashree will compere. There will be Chutuku Kavigoshti by invited poets/poetesses.

Pratibha Puraskar presented to meritorious students, senior citizens feted

Pratibha Puraskars were presented to meritorious students and senior citizens were felicitated at a function organised by SBM Sneha Balaga at Samskrithika Bhavan in Gokulam on the occasion of former Corporator SBM Manju's birthday celebrations recently. Sri Arjun Guruji, SBM Manju, MCC Superintending Engineer K.J. Sindhu and Chamaraja Constituency BJP President Dinesh Gowda felicitated the senior citizens. Engineer Jagadish, Mahadev, Ramakrishna, Satish, Raghu, Krishnappa, Mohan, Hanumegowda and others were present.

ICC Men's T20 World Cup

Unbeaten India eye to repeat 2007 triumph

Proteas vying for maiden title

Photo Courtesy: x.com/icc

Barbados, June 29 (Agencies)- In what promises to be a historic showdown, India will taken on South Africa in the final of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup at the Kensington Oval at Bridgetown here later in the evening. Both teams enter the title clash unbeaten, setting the stage for a gripping contest to determine cricketing supremacy in the shortest format.

Kensington Oval, upgraded for the 2007 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup, holds significance as the largest permanent cricket venue in the Caribbean, promising a fitting stage for this monumental clash.

India, led by the experienced Rohit Sharma, seeks to reclaim the trophy they last lifted in the inaugural 2007 edition.

Their journey to the final has been marked by dominant performances, including a convincing victory over defending champions England in the semifinals.

India's batting prowess, spearheaded by Rohit and supported by Suryakumar Yadav's aggression, has been complemented by a formidable spin trio featuring Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel and Ravindra Jadeja.

On the other hand, South Africa, under new captaincy and driven by past disappointments, has shown resilience throughout the tournament.

They secured their spot in the final with a commanding nine-wicket win over Afghanistan in the semifinals, showcasing their depth in both batting and bowling departments.

As anticipation builds among cricket enthusiasts worldwide, the final at Kensington Oval not only promises thrilling cricket but also marks a pivotal moment in the careers of both teams.

For India, it's a chance to add another T20 World Cup trophy to their illustrious history, while South Africa aims to overcome past heartbreaks and claim their maiden title.

With the spotlight on two undefeated teams, the stage is set for an unforgettable encounter that will define the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 and leave a lasting impression on the cricketing world.

ICC MEN'S T20 WORLD CUP
WEST INDIES & USA 2024

TODAY'S MATCH (JUNE 29)

FINALS

South Africa Vs **India**

Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, Barbados — **8 pm**

Catch live action on
STAR SPORTS NETWORK and DISNEY + HOTSTAR

Mysuru's School of Planning and Architecture ranked 8th in country

Mysuru, June 29- The School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), University of Mysore (UoM), has been listed 8th among top architecture colleges in the country, according to a survey conducted by *India Today* magazine.

The institute has been ranked 5th in the survey conducted throughout India by Global Human Resource Development Centre, New Delhi, in the category of Super Excellence.

It has also bagged second rank in Karnataka and 3rd rank in the Southern region, according to sources.

The School Planning and Architecture, Mysuru, was established in the year 2015-16 in the Manasagangothri campus, University of Mysore.

Check feeding of pigeons near Mysore Palace: DC tells officials

Mysuru, June 29 (BS)- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Dr. K.V. Rajendra has directed the officers to create awareness among the public and tourists against throwing grains to feed pigeons near Mysore Palace, as the bird droppings is posing threat to the beauty of Palace and its hygienic surroundings.

Dr. Rajendra

The DC came out with specific instructions during a meeting held at his office, that was attended by the Officers concerned and Members of Jain Organisation, on Thursday. The meeting was conducted following a complaint received from public about poop and droppings of pigeons, marring the beauty of Palace.

The DC told the Officers to prevent the practice of spreading grains, involving Jain Organisation that is contributing two gunny bags of wheat and jowar for feeding pigeons daily and also tourists and the public. If the pigeons continue to poop on Mysore Palace, the structure may lose its sheen, said DC.

Daily wheat grains brought in sacks at the crack of dawn, are spread near Kote Anjaneyaswamy Temple at the North Gate of the Palace. To feed on them, thousands of pigeons roost nearby and the moment the flock of birds hit the ground and fly, it makes for a splendid sight, that attracts many lensmen to capture the sight in their camera.

The heritage experts and environmentalists also share negative opinions about this practice of feeding pigeons. Awareness should be created among public, not to disturb the birds for the sake of their entertainment.

DC said: "Mysore Palace Board Officers should hold talks with representatives of Jain Organisation and direct them to feed the birds in a limited manner, only if found essential, other than the general public and tourists, who also feed the birds."

With the large quantity of grains thrown at the same place, an Assistant should be deputed to create awareness on these lines. In addition, the grains should be spread at different places in stages, far from the heritage buildings, which was also agreeable to Jain Organisation members attending the meeting.

Both Mysore Palace Board and MCC should work in coordination to safeguard the interest of pigeons and also the Palace, besides maintaining cleanliness in the city, Dr. Rajendra said.

MCC Commissioner Ashaad-Ur-Rahman Shariff and Mysore Palace Board Deputy Director T.S. Subramanya were present.

Rise in pigeons, fall in crow, myna numbers

Mysuru, June 29 (MTY&BS)- While there is a rise in pigeon population in the city, the numbers of crows and mynas have dwindled, flagging concern among bird lovers in the city.

The flock of pigeons around Mysore Palace and various other parts of the city are regularly fed by nature lovers with grains and food roasted in oil. This has come under flak, especially for feeding pigeons near Mysore Palace, with the bird droppings posing a threat to the beauty of the royal abode and also taking a toll on public health.

Rajkumar of Wildlife Conservation Foundation said: "We have been making fervent appeals against feeding pigeons in public places, from the past several years, but the practice of feeding them with grains and oily food is going on unabated. This has changed the lifestyle of pigeons, which have got the taste of protein rich food, thus making them lethargic and roost in the same place. It has also increased reproduction among birds, which have been building nests in heritage buildings and the name boards of the shops. Instead of introducing regulations to restrain the practice of feeding pigeons, the public awareness should be created and the public should also understand the concern behind the same."

Animal rescuer Pradeep said: "The food chain of birds is disturbed with the feeding of birds near Palace, Dasara Exhibition Grounds, Government Guest House and other prominent buildings in the city. The toxin content is found more in the poop of the birds, which poses a significant threat to the roof of the buildings, thus leading to gradual weakening of the structure. It also causes asthma and anaemia among public, which the people tend to ignore."

On the other hand, the rise in number of pigeons, has hit the number of crows and mynas, causing environmental imbalance, for going against the nature. People should understand that, the birds won't die for not feeding them, as they naturally feed on flies and insects found in trees and plants. There is a ban on feeding of pigeons in public places in Maharashtra. Similarly, rules should be introduced in Mysuru city, to regulate the feeding of pigeons, to protect various other bird species, demanded Pradeep.

Health Department conducts dengue awareness rally

Mysuru, June 29 (GA&VNS)- The officials of Department of Health and Family Welfare held a dengue awareness rally at areas located under HHMBG and Indira Nagar Primary Health Centre (PHC), here yesterday.

The staff members visited individual houses and urged the people co-operate with the Department to conduct the survey of the mosquito larvae. The officials also conducted the mock tests of the survey process using water bottles.

DHO Dr. P. Kumaraswamy, District Vector-borne Diseases Control Officer, PHC Medical Officers and others were present.

Kodagu DC orders closure of all glass bridges till Sept. 15

Madikeri, June 29 (AG&BCT)- All glass bridges operating in Kodagu district will have to close operations till Sept. 15, 2024, ordered Kodagu DC Venkat Raja. It was announced during a meeting on natural disaster management at the DC Office auditorium yesterday.

The order follows a precarious situation involving a glass bridge installed just four months ago at Nandi Motte in Hebbatageri village in Madikeri taluk. A landslide beneath the bridge on Wednesday caused its three supporting pillars to become unstable, a situation worsened by heavy rains which further destabilised the hilly terrain.

The DC stated that immediate orders have been issued to halt construction of any glass bridges until Sept. 15 and even operation of existing bridges — authorised or unauthorised — will be stopped due to the lack of safety measures in place.

He questioned how safety certificates were being provided for these bridges without adequate precautions and asked who would take responsibility if any issues arose from the lack of safety. He objected to the practice of glass bridge operators obtaining a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from the local Gram Panchayat (GP) with Zilla Panchayat (ZP) and Tourism being unaware of them.

Given the large number of tourists visiting these glass bridges, Panchayat officials were cautioned to take responsibility for any problems that might arise. With the district experiencing significant rainfall and likelihood of more rain in July-August, officials need to exercise extra caution in managing natural disasters, he said.

Disaster relief measures

In the first week of July, a Karnataka Development Programme (KDP) meeting will be held under the Chairmanship of the Kodagu District Minister. Officials were instructed by the DC to provide complete information related to their respective departments by July 5. They were also advised to study the issues plaguing pending development works and then attend the meeting.

Given the good rainfall in the District, attention needs to be paid to Govt. buildings, including schools and colleges. Information about schools with inadequate infrastructure should be provided and all Panchayat Engineers were directed to take necessary action in this regard.

Public safety paramount

Regarding construction of bridges and roads, safety precautions must be taken. No compromises should be made in ensuring public safety, said the DC, emphasising importance of adhering to safety measures.

"Due to heavy rainfall expected in the coming days, no one should venture out from their central locations without permission and there is no need to travel to Bengaluru for meetings. The Chief Minister's Office will grant permission based on representations made to them," Venkat Raja noted.

SP K. Ramarajan underscored the need for increased attention to road safety on both National and State Highways. Accidents can occur due to slippery conditions. Information pamphlets should be distributed & roads repaired as necessary.

Dist. Disaster Management Officer R.M. Ananya Vasudev has been advising caution & monitoring situations in flood-hit areas. Asst. Commissioner Vinayak Narvade, Dist. & taluk-level officers were present.

'Awaiting guidelines'

There are currently 2 glass bridges in Kodagu and there have been requests for similar facilities at Bhagamandala, Ibinivaladi, Boikeri and Kedakal where landowners have applied. Presently, there are no established safety & legal guidelines for glass bridges. All 25 activities in Kodagu adhere to specific procedures and guidelines, but the concept of glass bridges is new. We have reached out to the Tourism Department Director to seek guidelines and clarity on this matter. In July, there will be a policy formation meeting in Bengaluru where we intend to address this issue.

—Anitha Bhaskar, Deputy Director, Tourism Dept., Kodagu

WORD OF THE DAY

Redux

Pronunciation: ree-DUKS.
Meaning: Redux is an adjective that means "brought back," and it is usually used to describe an event or situation that closely resembles something from the past. Redux is always used postpositively, that is, after the word or phrase it describes.
Origin: In English, redux describes things that have been brought back — metaphorically, that is. For example, if relationship between two nations resembles that of the United States and Soviet Union in the late 20th century, one might call the situation a "Cold War redux." But a dog brought back home after running away would likely not be called "Buddy redux" going forward. The Latin redux did historically have more literal application, however. For example, the Romans used this sense of redux to characterize the goddess of chance, Fortuna; Fortuna Redux was trusted to bring those far from home back safely. Today, redux is also increasingly used as a noun with a meaning something similar to retread or echo, as in "His latest movie was just a poor redux of his earlier, more visionary work."
Example: "The seismic shift in our economic structure — a world of tech oligarchs with oceans of uber-serfs driving their gig economy — is feudalism redux, according to Joel Kotkin, whose next book is called 'The New Feudalism: The Coming Global Return to the Middle Ages.' 'Following a remarkable epoch of greater dispersion of wealth and opportunity, we are inexorably returning towards a more feudal era marked by greater concentration of wealth and property, reduced upward mobility, demographic stagnation, and increased dogmatism,' Kotkin wrote on his website." —Petula Dvorak, The Anchorage (Alaska) Daily News, 31 Dec. 2021.

THE ODD WORD

Rampick

Dead tree or tree decayed at top.

PHRASE OF THE DAY

Rise and Shine

Meaning: The phrase 'Rise and Shine' is used when waking someone up.
Origin: Apparently it originated from biblical quote that is found in Isaiah 60:1 of 1611 version of the King James Bible. Arise, shine; for thy light is come and glory of Lord is upon thee. For record, rise & shine is very popular with the military. 'Rise and Shine' originated as a military order in the late 1800s, with 'shine' meaning 'act lively and do well.'
Example: "It's past seven a.m.: rise and shine!"

QUOTE BOX

The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.—**Mark Twain**

RIDDLE THIS

Solve the rebus:

Answer: More harm than good.

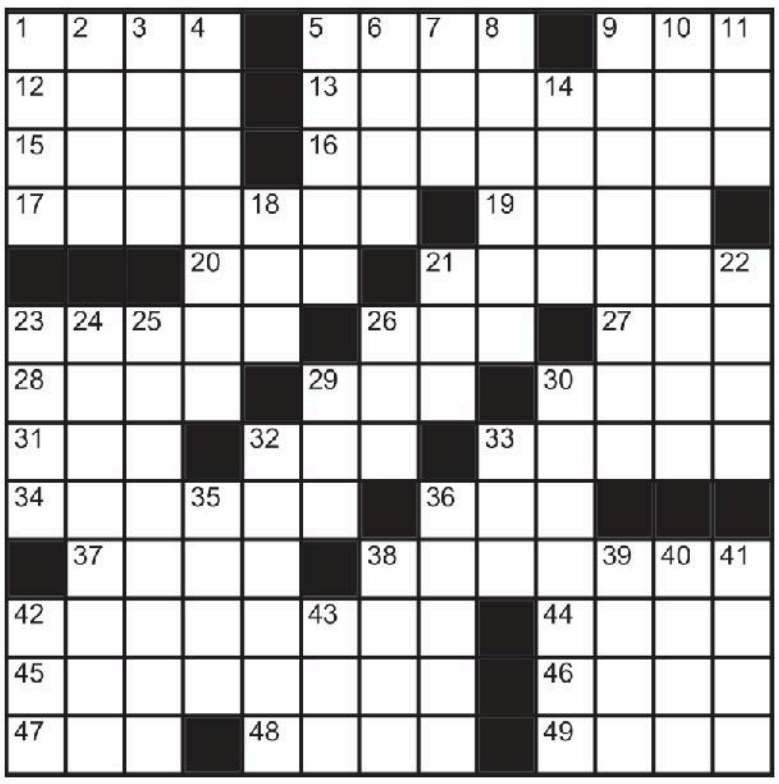
CROSS WORD

ACROSS:
1 Slightly wet
5 Skin affliction
9 Looked at
12 Mumbai's maidan
13 Former Sri Lankan bowler Upul __
15 Reflecting optimism
16 Objects, things, substance
17 Famous Belgian city
19 Burn to ground; destroy or demolish completely
20 Wood sorrel
21 Irritate
23 Boat to paddle
26 Jump on one leg
27 Fierce quarrel or dispute
28 Oaf
29 Buddhist temple
30 Fully developed
31 __ ___ The Walrus: The Beatles hit (1,2)
32 Roman bronze - "sea" change ?
33 Abhors or dislikes
34 Tapered formation of frozen water
36 A small black bird
37 Dill herb - "neat" anagram
38 Diplomatic or discrete?
42 Gives used articles, etc. in part payment for another (6,2)
44 Molten rock
45 Pronouncing or saying
46 Able was I, ___ __ saw Elba? (3,1)
47 Make a ___ line for : go straight to eagerly?
48 Remain behind
49 Deceased

DOWN
1 "Road" anagram for a girl's name?
2 River of Shakespeare's Stratford
3 From which a flag may fly
4 Veneered board
5 Capital of Ghana
6 Cut with strokes of knife
7 Girl's name - "Ann" changed ?
8 Beguile or ensnare
9 Ancient Indian language
10 Deer-like animal
11 Existed
14 ___ Martin : Hollywood star of many a comedy?
18 Eco. Comm. of Europe
21 Decompose naturally
22 Female sheep
23 202 in Roman numerals
24 According to the menu (1,2,5)
25 Appoint, designate or choose
26 Owns
29 Very small
30 Unnerved
32 Makes changes
33 Sound of a hiccup?
35 Grant or transfer?
36 Piquant
38 ____ Turner : famous singer?
39 Price of a ride
40 Eye part
41 ___-back (easygoing)
42 But what a bath!
43 ___ on : delay action about, colloquially speaking?

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER

H	A	S	■	M	I	L	D	■	J	I	G	S
I	T	O	■	I	S	A	W	■	E	R	O	S
F	O	U	R	S	O	M	E	■	R	E	A	R
I	M	P	E	L	■	A	L	M	S	■	■	■
■	■	■	T	E	A	■	T	O	E	C	A	P
G	A	N	D	A	L	F	■	N	Y	A	S	A
O	B	E	■	D	E	B	I	T	■	D	A	N
A	L	I	B	I	■	O	B	E	Y	I	N	G
T	E	N	A	N	T	■	O	V	A	■	■	■
■	■	■	O	G	A	M	■	I	R	A	T	E
L	I	M	B	■	K	I	N	D	N	E	S	S
O	D	E	A	■	E	L	I	E	■	R	A	N
W	O	M	B	■	N	A	T	O	■	O	R	E



SUDOKU

7			5	4		3		
					8		1	7
2								
					9	4		
	8	1	2		4	9	5	
		9	3					
								1
9	7		1					
		4		2	7			6

Answer to previous puzzle

8	3	1	6	5	2	4	9	7
6	5	4	7	1	9	2	3	8
9	7	2	8	3	4	5	6	1
3	6	8	4	7	1	9	5	2
5	1	7	2	9	3	8	4	6
4	2	9	5	6	8	7	1	3
1	4	6	9	2	7	3	8	5
2	8	5	3	4	6	1	7	9
7	9	3	1	8	5	6	2	4

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Concept is Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

CRYPTOQUIP

The Cryptoquip is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

ARB NATKSXC NSRBHB TQ NMGGCWKOV TML

FXOAN IW CTGGKOV TQQ TML YBNKLBN, KN CKDB

SMAAKOV TQQ TML QBBA FRBO FB FXOA NRTBN

TODAY'S CLUE: V EQUALS G

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: There are two types of actors: Those who say they want to be famous, and those who are liars.

MOVIE LOVERS

NOW SHOWING - SINGLE SCREEN THEATRES

- **Lido Theatre** — **Ph: 2420885**
  Pokkiri (Ta) - 2 Shows; *Veera (K)* - 2 Shows
- **Gayathri Theatre** — **Ph: 2443568**
  Kalki (K) - 4 Shows
- **Sangam Theatre** — **Ph: 2520494**
  Kotee (K) - 4 Shows
- **Prabha Theatre** — **Mob: 98454-14691**
  Shatabhisha (K) - 4 Shows
- **Thibbadevi Theatre** — **Ph: 2452958**
  Munjya (H) - 4 Shows
- **Padma Theatre** — **Ph: 2521923**
  Billa (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Rajkamal Theatre** — **Ph: 2423554**
  Garudan (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Woodlands Theatre** — **Ph: 2422871**
  Maharaja (Ta) - 4 Shows
- **Mahadeshwara Theatre** — **Mob: 99008-20093**
  Judgement (K) - 4 Shows
- **Balaji Theatre** — **Mob: 9886325207**
  Kalki (H) - 4 Shows

DRC CINEMAS — Ph: 4240422, 4241800

Kalki 2898 AD (Te-3D)	(S-1)	11.45 am, 3.15 pm
	(S-2)	4 pm, 9.45 pm
	(S-4)	9.45 am, 1.15 pm, 6.40 pm, 10.10 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (H-3D)	(S-1)	6.45 pm, 10.15 pm
Love Li (K)	(S-2)	10.30 am
Munjya (H)	(S-2)	1.35 pm
Paradise (Ma)	(S-2)	7.30 pm
A Quite Place Day One (E)	(S-3)	10.50 am, 10.10 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (K-2D)	(S-3)	1 pm
Maharaja (Ta)	(S-3)	4.25 pm
Kotee (K)	(S-3)	7.10 pm
Inside Out 2 (E-3D)	(S-4)	4.40 pm

MYSURU VISION CINEMAS — Ph: 0821 - 2973519

Love Li (K)	(S-1)	10.45 am, 3.35 pm
	(S-4)	1 pm
Karmadolage (K)	(S-1)	1.40 pm
Kotee (K)	(S-1)	6.25 pm
Maharaja (Ta)	(S-1)	9.30 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (Te-3D)	(S-2)	10.30 am, 2.30 pm, 6 pm, 9.30 pm
	(S-4)	4 pm, 7.25 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (K-2D)	(S-3)	1 pm, 4.25 pm, 7.50 pm

PVR CINEMAS — 4K Dolby 7.1

Nexus Centre City Mall, 2nd Floor. Mob: 8951357139

Kalki 2898 AD (Te-3D)	:	6.45 am, 7.15 am, 10.30 am, 11 am 2.15 pm, 2.45 pm, 6.30 pm, 10.15 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (H-2D)	:	8.45 am, 12.30 pm, 3.55 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (K-2D)	:	10 am, 5.30 pm, 9.30 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (Te-2D)	:	1.45 pm, 9.15 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (H-3D)	:	6 pm, 9.45 pm
A Quite Place Day One (E)	:	10.30 am, 4.15 pm, 7.40 pm, 10 pm
Love Li (K)	:	12.15 pm
Maharaja (Ta)	:	12.50 pm
Munjya (H)	:	3.45 pm
Kotee (K)	:	6.30 pm
Jatt & Juliet (Punjabi)	:	6.35 pm
Chandu Champion (H)	:	10 pm

1st Floor, Garuda Mall. Mob: 9901373210

Kalki 2898 AD (Te-3D)	:	11.15 am, 11.45 am, 3 pm, 5.45 pm 6.45 pm, 9.30 pm, 10.30 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (K-2D)	:	1.30 pm, 9 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (Te-2D)	:	3.10 pm, 10 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (H-2D)	:	5.15 pm
Kotee (K)	:	11.40 am
Inside Out 2 (E-3d)	:	3.30 pm
Maharaja (Ta)	:	6.55 pm

EVENTS TODAY (JUNE 29)

- **The Jewellery Show:** Exclusive jewellery exhibition, Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, M.G. Road, **up to 9 pm.**
- **Adavi Alert Foundation:** Releasing of the book 'Snakes of Mysore - Educate, Enlighten and Empower,' authored by Pavan Joshi, Founder of Adavi Alert Foundation and the book dedicated to city's renowned snake-rescuer and wild-life conservationist Snake Shyam, Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, Mysuru-Kodagu MP Yaduveer Wadiyar, Bidar MP Sagar Eshwar Khandre, Filmmaker J.S. Amoghavarsha and senior herpetologist and co-author of the book 'Snakes of India' Ashok Captain chief guests, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests Subhash K. Malkhede, Founder-Chairperson of Mysuru Book Clubs-2015 Shubha Sanjay Urs, Bandipur Tiger Reserve Director Prabhakaran, Conservation Biologist Sanjay Gubbi, MLAs K. Harishgowda, T.S. Srivatsa, Tanveer Sait and G.T. Devegowda and former MP Pratap Simha guests of honour, Kalamandira, Hunsur Road, **4 pm.**
- **Kalasuruchi:** 'Kathe Kelona Banni- 834,' story-telling by L. Narasu, retired Teacher, Department of Education, Mysuru, **4.30 pm to 5.30 pm;** Karnatak Music Concert by Girija Ravishankar and Srinidhi Koushik (vocal), accompanied by Vidu. Aditi Krishnaprakash (violin) and Vid. Vikram Bharadwaj (mridanga), Suruchi Rangamane, Kuvempunagar, **6.30 pm.**
- **Natyalekha, Mysuru:** Interaction with poet-dramatist-theatre director Raghunandan, the author of 'Nanu Satta Mele' and 'Tuytavella Navyadattah Andattara Uyyale Mattu Adara Sutta,' writer-sustainable farming and rural development expert K.P. Suresh will be the moderater, B.V. Karanth Ranga Chavadi, Rangayana premises, **5 pm.**
- **Books & Brews Library:** Storytelling and Craft session-All about families, Library premises, Gokulam, **5 pm.**
- **Sharana Sahitya Parishat, Mysuru City and Kadali Mahila Vedike:** Mane Manege Sharaneyara Agamana, Dr. Kavitha Rai delivers lecture on 'Dasaraiahgala Punyasthree Veeramma, residence of Madalambika Nanjundaswamy, L-105, Naganamana, 2nd Stage, 2nd Cross, KHB Colony, Kuvempunagar, **5.30 pm.**
- **Ganabharathi and Mysore Sangeetha Sabhegala Okkuta:** 'Karnataka Vaggeya Vaibhava,' compositions of Vid. C. Rangaiah by students of Vidu. Sukanya Prabhakar — Anjana, Sharanya G. Bhat, Nisarga Sridhar, R. Nityashree, Akshata Bhat, Sabhyata & Poorvitha (vocal), Vid. Amogh Nadadur (violin), Vid. P.S. Sridhar (mridanga) and Vid. Ajay (ghata), **6 pm;** Compositions of Vid. Chikkaramarayaru by students of Vidu. Padma Gurudatta — Ambika Gurudatt, Koviladi Archana, Chaitra Raghunandan & Shashi Srinivasan (vocal), Vidu. C.V. Shruthi (violin), Vid. Nandan Kashyap (mridanga) and Vid. Ajay (ghata), Ganabharathi's Veene Seshanna Bhavana, Kuvempunagar, **7.15 pm.**
- **Sri Ramakrishna Ashram, Mysuru:** Swami Mahipalanandaji speaks on 'Understanding Sant Kabirdas,' Ashram premises, Yadavagiri, **6 pm.**
- **Sri Krishna Trust - Sri Krishna Mithra Mandali:** Discourse on Srimad Vadiraja's 'Rukmineesha Vijaya' by Sri Adamaru Peethadheesha Sri Vishwapriya Theertha Sripadagal, Sri Krishnadhama, Saraswathipuram, **6 pm to 7.30 pm.**

EVENTS TOMORROW (JUNE 30)

- **Ganabharathi and Mysore Sangeetha Sabhegala Okkuta:** 'Karnataka Vaggeya Vaibhava,' comprising 10 Vaggeyakararu (composers) of yesteryears, compositions of Vid. Bidaram Krishnappa by Vid. S. Shankar and his students (Eshwar Iyer and Aravind), Vid. Achyutha Rao (violin), Vid. B.R. Srinivas (mridanga) and Vid. Sharath Koushik (ghata), **9.30 am;** Compositions of Veena Padmanabharayaru by Vid. Srikantam Nagendra Shastry (vocal), Vid. Veena Suresh (violin), Vid. G.S. Ramanujam (mridanga) and Vid. S. Manjunath (ghata), **10.40 am;** Compositions of Vid. H. Yoganarasimham by Vid. Vivek Sadashivam (vocal), Vidu. Adithi Krishnaprakash (violin), Vid. Kumaraswamy (mridanga) and Vid. M.R. Manjunath (ghata), **11.50 am;** Valedictory function — Dharanidevi Malagatti, Director, Dept. of Kannada and Culture, Bengaluru, chief guest, Ganabharathi's Veene Seshanna Bhavana, Kuvempunagar, **1 pm.**
- **The Jewellery Show:** Exclusive jewellery exhibition, Radisson Blu Plaza Hotel, M.G. Road, **10 am to 9 pm.**
- **Music concerts:** Vocal concert by Aravinda Rangarajan from Chennai, accompanied by Vid. V. Bargava Vignesh on violin and Vid. B. Sai Sundar on mridanga, Mysore Vasudevacharya's heritage house, near Agrahara, **10.30 am.**
- **Sharana Sahitya Parishat, Mysuru City and Kadali Mahila Vedike:** Mane Manege Sharaneyara Agamana, Dr. T.C. Poornima delivers lecture on 'Akkamma,' residence of Rathna Mahesh, Mahanandi Diary Forum, Chamundi Hill Road, **5.30 pm.**
- **Sri Krishna Trust - Sri Krishna Mithra Mandali:** Discourse on Srimad Vadiraja's 'Rukmineesha Vijaya' by Sri Adamaru Peethadheesha Sri Vishwapriya Theertha Sripadagal, Sri Krishnadhama, Saraswathipuram, **6 pm to 7.30 pm.**
- **Sri Ramakrishna Ashram, Mysuru:** Swami Yuktheshanandaji speaks on 'Srimate Sri Saradadevi,' Ashram premises, Yadavagiri, **6 pm.**
- **Builders' Association of India (BAI):** World Environment Month celebrations, 8th MYGREEN 24 expo, **10 am to 9 pm;** Ramesh Kikkeri, Consultant, Sustainable Living, inaugurates, Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry, Vinoba Road, **9.30 am.**
- **Hemaganga Sahitya mattu Samskrutika Pratishtana and Mysuru Sahitya mattu Samskrutika Pratishtana:** A. Hemaganga's 63rd birthday celebrations, book release, Chutuku Kavigoshti and Award Presentation, Ideal Jawa Rotary School premises, JLB Road, **10 am.**
- **Taralabalu Samagama:** Bhava Sangama and Endowment Programme, retd. Economics Professor Rachappa Mallappa Chintamani delivers lecture on 'Sharanara Arthika Chintane,' Taralabalu Samagama President Dr. S.B. Vasanthakumar presides; Vachana Gayana and Bhavageete by Choodamani, Taralabalu Students Hostel, Tilak Nagar, **10.30 am.**
- **Natana, Mysuru:** Presentation of music-dance feature 'Anavarata' by Bangalore Players theatre company, Natana premises, Ramakrishnanagar, **6.30 pm.**
- **Ashtanga Yoga Vijnana Mandiram:** Discourse on 'Atma Gunagalu' by K. Sudarshan, No. 957, Seshadri Iyer Road, Lakshmipuram, **6.45 pm.**
- **Rangavalli:** Play 'Pratijna Mattu Swapna Nataka' based on Bhasa Mahakavi, directed by Saliyan Umesh Narayana, RamaGovinda Rangamandira, Ramakrishnanagar, **7 pm.**

INOX — LIVE the MOVIE

Mall of Mysore - Mob: 7829999465

Kalki 2898 AD (Te-3D)	:	10.15 am, 2 pm, 3 pm 5.45 pm, 9.30 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (Te-2D)	:	11.15 am, 3 pm, 10.30 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (K-2D)	:	4.15 pm, 6.45 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (H-3D)	:	10 pm
A Quite Place Day One (E)	:	12.40 pm, 8 pm
Munjya (H)	:	1.30 pm
Kotee (K)	:	6.45 pm
Maharaja (Ta)	:	10.20 pm

INOX Centro Mysore - Mob: 9606976757

Kalki 2898 AD (Te-3D)	:	10.15 am, 11.15 am, 2 pm 3 pm, 5.45 pm, 6.45 pm 9.30 pm, 10.30 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (K-2D)	:	12.15 pm, 10.20 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (H-2D)	:	4 pm
Kalki 2898 AD (Ma-2D)	:	10 pm
Love Li (K)	:	12.50 pm
Kotee (K)	:	4 pm
Maharaja (Ta)	:	7.15 pm
Paradise (Ma)	:	7.45 pm

NOTE: Movie timings published here are subject to sudden change by the theatre managements. The films are also liable to be changed in multiplexes if there are no minimum audience of 15.

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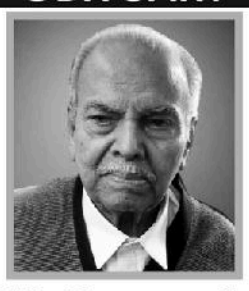

Adv. T.V. Samuel (100 Yrs)
Thayyil, Karrakal

Passed away peacefully at 2 pm on 28th June 2024.
The body may be viewed at the residence - 1045, Near Pragathi School, Bogadhi 2nd Stage, Mysore. till 10 am on Monday July 1st 2024.
The funeral service will be held at 11 am at St. Gregorios Orthodox Church, Mysore. Followed by burial at the Church Cemetery, Utthanahalli Road, Chamundi Hill.

Grieved By: Wife: Susamma Samuel, Daughters: Roshin, Ruby, Reeni & their Families
Contact : +91 99645 68939